AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-25 (Canceled).

26. (New) A method for selecting a therapeutic peptide protected from peptidase degradation *in vivo* from a plurality of therapeutic peptides comprising between 3 and 50 amino acids, the therapeutic peptides having a carboxy terminus and an amino terminus, and a carboxy terminal amino acid and an amino terminal amino acid, said peptides having been modified by coupling a reactive group to the carboxy terminal amino acid, to the amino terminal amino acid, or to an amino acid located between the amino terminal amino acid and the carboxy terminal amino acid; the method comprising:

a) forming a covalent bond between said reactive group and a reactive functionality on non-denatured albumin to form peptide-albumin conjugates;

b) analyzing the stability of said peptide-albumin conjugates toward peptidase degradation to find one or more peptide-albumin conjugates having a higher stability to peptidase degradation than the unconjugated therapeutic peptide and verifying if the peptide-albumin conjugates retain the therapeutic activity of the unconjugated therapeutic peptide; and

c) selecting a therapeutic peptide that has a higher stability toward peptidase degradation when conjugated to albumin than the unconjugated therapeutic peptide, in accordance with step a), and retains the therapeutic activity of the unconjugated therapeutic peptide, in accordance with step b).

27. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the peptide-albumin conjugates are formed *in vivo*.

28. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the peptide albumin conjugates are formed *ex vivo*.

29. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein said reactive group comprises a maleimide group.

30. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein said reactive group is coupled to said peptide via a lysine and/or a linking group.

31. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein one or more of said amino acids is synthetic.

32. (New) The method according to claim 26 wherein the reactive group is coupled to the therapeutic peptide at the amino terminal amino acid of the peptide.

33. (New) The method according to claim 26 wherein the reactive group is coupled to the therapeutic peptide at the carboxy terminal amino acid of the peptide.

34. (New) The method according to claim 26 wherein the reactive group is coupled to the therapeutic peptide at an amino acid located between the amino terminal amino acid and the carboxy terminal amino acid of the peptide.